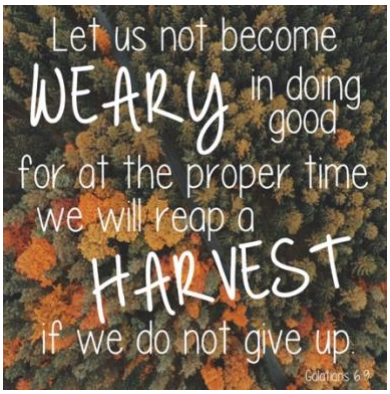
20200822 Galatians 6 Let Us Not Become Weary



Galatians Chapter 6

Please follow along with me as I read chapter 6. We are now coming to our end of this study where Paul will lay down a few points in quick sequence. Remember that the entire theme of the Book of Galatians has been that salvation is by having faith in Jesus alone. No rule, regulation, or conduct can be added to what we must do to be saved. Open your Bible now and read along with me.

6 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. [2] Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. [3] For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. [5] For each one will bear his own load.

[6] The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him. [7] Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. [8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. [9] Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. [10] So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

[11] See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. [12] Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. [13] For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. [14] But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. [15] For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. [16] And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

[17] From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.

[18] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen. (Galatians 6, NASB).

Chapter 6

v. 1 In the entire Book of Galatians we have seen Paul battling those who wanted to add something other than Jesus to their salvation. We learned in Chapter 5 that we are to live by the Spirit. I called it "walking by the Spirit" in the sermon. Basically, we have a tug-o-war going on within us. The old sin nature we were born with pulls us to live according to our fleshly desires while the Holy Spirit which came into us at salvation pulls us towards thinking, acting, speaking, and behaving in accordance with God's desire for our lives. As the Holy Spirit lives within us, we literally have God's law written into our hearts.

Paul begins chapter 6 talking about what should happen if a brother in the Lord is caught in a trespass. This runs counter to behavior found in a legalistic church. Some scholars say that a "transgression" (*παραπτώματι-paraptomati*) is a little different than a sin. I really don't believe it is. It is a sin you commit whether you know it is a sin or not. It doesn't have to be deliberate. Paul is talking about how others are to handle it when a believer does wrong. Paul is calling on those who are mature in the faith to correct with <u>gentleness</u>. A legalistic person will not correct with gentleness but rather with condemnation and harshness. Even this week as I needed to correct someone in the church, this verse urged me to do so gently and not to do so in a curt "Faberly way." When we allow God to do so, He is at work in our hearts to change us and comform us into God's ideal for us.

People in legalistic atmospheres (churches or otherwise) have a tendency to "eat each other" up, and Paul warned against exactly that sort of thing in chapter 5. Paul is saying those of us who are mature in the faith should govern the church with grace. We are to restore and to direct another found in sin with a spirit of gentleness. Why? Because that's exactly the way God restores each of us. God's conviction is usually gentle. He doesn't strike us down or srike us dead (maybe even if we might deserve such harshness). Sometimes we wish God would make the ground open up and swallow problem makers or people in the fellowship, but He doesn't do that with us so we shouldn't wish that on others.

Scripture tells us that it is "His kindness that leads us to repentance" (Romans 2:3-4). Paul reminds us that we are all prone to the same weaknesses. When we begin to minister, there is a natural tendency to look down on others. I call that denigrating others. Some of you all have heard me talk about that. We tend to do that especially if someone is struggling with something that doesn't particulary tempt us, or something that we've overcome. That's why the recovered alcoholic will often have little patience with someone struggling with bad choices over alcohol. Or the former smoker will have a hateful attitude toward someone still addicted to cigarettes. Paul is saying, "don't go there." Correct with gentleness and remember how broken you yourself are. Let's move onto verse 2.

v.2 When we bear each other's burdens we are doing what Jesus does. In verse 1, Paul warns, "Be careful lest you too be tempted." We have to keep watch on our own hearts. We

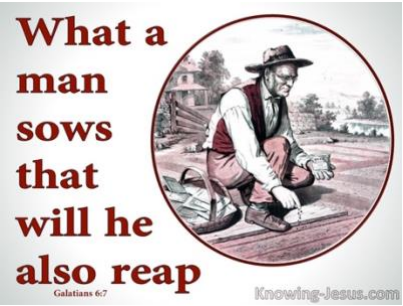
quickly forget that we too have hearts that are desperately wicked. Be careful to understand that you can get into a situation over your head. I learned at an early age to have a healthy fear of myself and my own heart. It helps to live rightly by realizing that I am a few tiny decisions from destroying my life and my testimony. This is part of having a healthy viewpoint of our own weaknesses.

v.3 This verse is a reminder that we must be careful to remember that we're nothing. Paul warns us about thinking we're something when we're really nothing. I would add that we shouldn't get too impressed with our own ministry to others. Instead just rejoice that God is using a weak vessel such as YOU and ME!

v.4 When we're ministering to others, don't be haughty about where you are in your own walk. Don't compare yourself with others. It's a go nowhere attitude. You'll either think you're better than someone else or you'll get caught in the quagmire of thinking your no good. Just be content to examine yourself and what God is doing in your own life.

v.5 This verse says that we each have our own path to walk. It will be a little different from everyone else's journey in the Lord. I was talking with Kelton, our youth pastor, and he commented that "we all live a tough life." At first I wanted to dispute that, but then I began thinking that each of us does indeed have challenges unlike any other person. Queen Elizabeth of England has had a hard life in her own way although it is not hard financially. Life is hard, but God can and does give us the strength to press on if we will just call upon Him.

v.6 Everyone is being taught by someone. Paul reminds us to share all we can with those who teach us. We are supposed to support those who minister to us. In my case, my tent-making might support me financially, but a few of you make a point to affirm me often and to validate my ministry. Others of you show up to help me on my ranch, or you bring me a cup of coffee. You are to share what you can with those who minister to you. It might be helping us with a foundering horse or bringing a donut and a cup of coffee. It's a way of honoring and treating those who feed you spiritually with respect.



vv.7&8 Paul then dives into what I think is one of the most important spiritual principles that exists. He says, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." This is both a physical and spiritual law. If you plant corn, you'll reap corn. If you plant beans, you'll reap beans. And guess what? If you don't plant corn or beans weeds will grow up. And not only that, if you plant corn and beans, weeds will STILL try to take over. This is a great metaphor for what goes on in the spiritual realm. If you plant nothing in your life, weeds of the flesh will take over. The flesh, like weeds in a garden, is the default path for your life and your conduct.

If you "sow to the spirit," you're going to produce the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT that we studied all last week. That means if you sow time in the Word, reading what God desires for His children, and if you spend time in prayer listening to how He desires to apply His Word to your life, you WILL reap the Fruit of the Spirit in your life. As you read the Word and listen, God whispers to you and nudges you to produce good fruit in your life. But If you sow to the flesh and its desires, you will reap the deeds of the flesh that we've looked at for the last two weeks. Sowing to the flesh can mean many things. But in summary, it is "letting your spiritual self go to seed." It is being the exact opposite of what God desires for you. It is yielding to the default within you that pulls you towards immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. In other words, your life will be filled with rottenness as you pursue pleasure and self. You were born with three basic needs: (1) the need to be loved and accepted, (2) the need to have value and worth, and (3) the need to have an identity. Whenever you try to meet any of those needs through ANYTHING but God and a relationship with Him, it will end in conflict and frustration.

In summary, remember that there is a tug-o-war going on inside of you. On one side you have the old sin nature with which you were born. It is encouraged and spurred on by influences of the world and the evil realm (the devil and other wicked spririts) to pull you in directions that are contrary to God. We must resist the flesh and sow to the Spirit. James, the brother of Jesus, reminds us that we are to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee from us (James 4:7). That, brothers and sisters, takes the "self-control" that comes as a fruit of the spirit mentioned in the last chapter. It takes an act of your own volition to pursue a path of holiness. We will grow tired in this struggle, but Paul encourages us on.

v.9 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Do you know why Paul is telling us not to grow weary? It is because we DO GROW WEARY. I know many of you are weary during this time of Covid. You're weary of the isolation. You're weary of the fear. You've tried to live walking in the Spirit and you are weary. I'm hear to tell you to NOT GROW WEARY OF DOING THE RIGHT THING. The right thing is the right thing so don't grow weary doing the right thing. It is easy to grow weary as well when you're helping others. Often, the needs you see around you seem overwhelming. Well you know what? They ARE overwhelming to finite, frail, weak people like us. BUT, they are not overwhelming to a POWERFUL GOD.

For the last four years I have poured myself into my little church family. I've poured out myself as a sweet offering before the Lord. It is when I look for a thank you or something that feeds my flesh that I grow weary. Do the good that you do as an offering to the Lord. When we went as a group and built a former church member a home, that person turned to their fleshly side and began to hurl insults and accusations at us. When I was a little overwhelmed by the hatred being thrown at us (me in particular), one of you reminded me, "We never were doing it for her

anyway. We were doing it as unto the Lord." That is how you don't grow weary in doing good. In frustration the flesh says, "No good deed goes unpunished." But the Spirit says, "NO GOOD DEED GOES UNNOTICED!!!" God takes note of everything and delights in it, so DO NOT GROW WEARY IN DOING GOOD.

v.10 Paul is saying, "don't get weary, and do good to <u>all people *but especially to believers*</u>." Why should we do good especially to believers? We treat them special because they are family. When we love each other, the whole world will know that we are His disciples and that we love one another. *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35, NASB).*

Guys, it is so easy to grow weary. I will repeat it and say again, "It is so easy to grow weary." How are we doing with loving the household of faith? The Lord is telling us that we are to get out of our comfort zone and do for others. It will cost you your time, talent, and treasure to love others. We can get so caught up in ourselves that we totally miss the mark in having care and concern for others.

v.11 Then Paul talks about the letters he's used. Paul used an *amenuensis* to dictate his letters, but he would write some of the letters at the bottom to let the recipients know that it wasn't a forgery. Maybe he had to write in "large letters" because of some disease of his eyes. Remember at the beginning of Galatians he mentioned that it was because of some illness that he had stopped in the region in the first place. What a wonderful reminder that God works all things together for good for those who love Him and for those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

vv.12-18 Paul ends by calling out the legalists saying that they "boast in their flesh". He means they are boasting in the own accomplisments. We are never to crow about the things that God does through us. He did it, not us! Isaac Watts wrote the beautiful words, *"Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood."* Let our sentiments be the same!

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868.

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